

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BUTTONWOODS FIRE DISTRICT**

**June 26, 2007**

**Buttonwoods Casino**

**8:00p.m.**

**The 82st Annual Meeting of the Buttonwoods Fire District was called to order at 8:04 p.m. Moderator, Mr. Mark McKenney presided.**

**He offered a warm welcome to the new members of the Community – Victoria, Cousins, Foley, McGreen.**

**Mr. McKenney also reminded the group of the ground rules of the Annual Meeting, and that we hold the meeting primarily to establish the budget, but that the discussion of other issues is welcome.**

**Reading of the Minutes of the 2006 Annual Meeting:**

**Mr. McKenney called for a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting (2006) that had been available to all taxpayers of the Fire District in advance, and that the reading of the minutes be waived. The reading of the minutes was waived.**

**Joe Suffredini made a motion to change the 2006 minutes, noting that the “allocated” reserve as of May 31, 2006 was \$90,760. The minutes were amended and corrected.**

**Motion to accept corrected minutes passed.**

### **Reports of Buttonwood Fire District Officers**

**Mr. McKenney called for the reports of the Officers and Supervisors.**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

**Mr. Joe Suffredini reported that the opening balance was \$147,898. Expenses for the Roads, Casino, and Seawall were reviewed. Ending balance is \$153,197. We have a Road Reserve of \$39,892, primarily carried over from the prior year. We have a Casino Reserve of \$20,568. He noted that \$15,868 had been carried over from the prior year and that \$1,300 had been spent on capital improvements in '06-'07. We have a Seawall Reserve of \$45,000, up \$5,000 from the prior year. The total allocated reserve as of May 31, 2007 is \$105,460. Motion passed to accept report as is.**

#### **Tax Assessor's Report:**

**Mr. Farrell noted the Tax Rate determined by the Board of Tax Assessors for 2006/2007 was \$1.16 per \$1,000.00 of real estate.**

**The Chapel, the Buttonwoods Fire District (BFD), and the Buttonwoods Beach Association (BBA) are exempt from taxation by the BFD. The BFD and the BBA are subject to Warwick City taxes whereas the Chapel is not. With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.**

### **Tax Collector's Report:**

**Mr. Farrell reported that the total taxes collected through May 31, 2007 were \$84,157. In addition \$398 was collected between June 1 and June 26. He also noted that there was only \$659 in un-paid taxes. With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.**

### **Auditor's Report:**

**Mr. Alibrandi presented the Auditors report noting that he thoroughly reviewed the financial procedures and policies with the Treasurer, Tax Assessor, Tax Collector and Casino Committee Treasurer. He acknowledged that things are in great shape. They are qualified and conscientious in the handling of the Fire District's money. The Tax Collector has only one outstanding payment due and as of June 30, 2007 the Casino will have repaid the BFD the \$1,000 that was temporarily provided to start a checking account in 2005. After no questions there was a motion to adopt the report. The motion was accepted.**

### **Clerk's Report:**

**Patricia Wegrzyn reported that she received no correspondence during the year.**

### **Supervisors' Report:**

**Senior Supervisor, Judy Taton, presented her report, which included the following news:**

- A new fountain at the hard courts**

- New signs have been ordered for the entrance
  - The door at the rear of the Casino now opens out (in case of emergencies)
  - New light shades and the defibrillator have been installed in the Casino
  - A 3 year contract has been signed with Bill Ross for grass cutting and snow plowing
  - Bill Ross rebuilt the two manholes destroyed on Promenade and also filled several potholes
  - Several trees were deemed unsafe and were removed
  - Random night security for the main entrance will run from June 22 through Halloween
  - Partying, bonfires and misbehavior continues in the woods.
- Residents were urged to contact the police

She gave thanks to the many residents who donate their services for the good of the community. She thanked Peter Dorsey for being the sewer representative. Lastly, she thanked Joe Suffredini for his financial efforts and other areas of expertise.

With no questions, the report was accepted as submitted.

## **Reports of BFD Committees**

### **Casino Committee:**

Claire Flaherty reported, representing herself and Kathy Falaguerra.

**Rich Conti is on for his 7th year as Steward. Bowling begins on July 1st with Doug Rademacher as Chair. Tennis for children and adults will be on Thursdays. Wednesday evening “drop-ins” will showcase neighbors sharing their hobbies and skills (astronomy, knitting, chess) with the children. Tuesday am is Toddler Time. Defibrillator training will be held June 30th.**

**2007 events will include the traditional Fourth of July celebration, Bowling and Beers night, Adult Cocktails on the Point, and the Steak Fry.**

**The report of the Casino Committee was accepted.**

**Casino Preservation Committee:**

**David Falaguerra noted that the Committee has completed several major projects since it's inception in 2000: a new roof, a major electrical overhaul, a new sprinkler / fire alarm system, the restoration of the Cooper Avenue louver, and a complete exterior painting.**

**No major projects are scheduled for 2007/2008 but planning for sidewalk and landscape improvements will continue.**

**The Committee requested a \$6,000 budget appropriation to make future improvements to the sidewalks and landscaping and to fund routine painting and maintenance.**

**With no questions the report was accepted as submitted.**

**Tennis Committee – no report.**

### **Reports of Other Community Committees (non BFD)**

**Buttonwood Beach Association – Ron Marsella on behalf of Hope Dillon:**

**He reminded the group that BBA is a non profit owned by the shareholder residents of Buttonwoods. Shares are available for \$50 to all property holders who are full time residents with more than two years in duration. He also reminded the group that the BBA owns most of the common land in Buttonwoods and that there is no interest the sale of any land. As such, to maintain its private nature the BBA must protect its property rights and can't let things “just happen” on the land. Permission must be requested to use BBA property. A letter will soon be sent to residents delineating the communities' wishes.**

**After the City of Warwick property re-evaluation BBA officers met with Tyler Technologies to confirm the fairness of the assessment method. The Tyler assessment was in line with the city. In addition, the officers investigated a forestry designation. Because the forestry designation comes with stringent requirements the issue was put on**

**the back burner. After filing the appropriate papers the designation of open space has been granted again.**

**Without questions the report was accepted.**

**Buttonwood Chapel Committee:**

**Kathy Gilman reported that the Chapel Committee has been busy. Thanks to the generosity of residents the inside and outside of the chapel have been painted. A set of bells have been purchased and we now have a youth bell choir.**

**2007 events include: Egg Hunt, Summer Youth Service, and a Chair Dedication Service and celebration.**

**Ceiling fans have also been installed in memory of Dave Taton.**

**She updated the group on the two year old Adopt a Chair program noting that 136 chairs have been restored. 30 chairs are available to dedicate to a deceased loved one, family member, or event.**

**Kristen Marcks inquired about a handicap accessible ramp, for which there is no current plan.**

**Buttonwood Garden Club – Sue Quain read on behalf of Karen Way: Sue reported that the club is alive through volunteerism of members. Volunteers are maintaining the entrance, the hanging pots on the**

**porch, and the Memorial Garden at the Chapel.**

**Until new leadership arises, Deb Taylor and Karen Way will continue to act as stewards of the records and finances. The Club Presented a check for \$5,000 to the Fire District for community landscaping. A committee will monitor existing plantings, and with the help of residents, will make suggestions for new plantings.**

**The Club will also organize the annual Cocktail Classic, buy hanging plants for the Casino porch, seek to buy a rain barrel system for watering the Memorial Garden at the Chapel, and will donate \$300 to the Park School as final gift of the club's community service program.**

**Without questions the report was accepted.**

**Mark McKenney then thanked the committee chairs for their reports and the group gave them a round of applause.**

**Reading of Communications:**

**There were no communications.**

**Unfinished Business:**

**There was no unfinished business from the 2006 meeting but Peter Dorsey gave a sewer update. He noted that residents will soon receive notices in the mail regarding hookup and recommended that folks collaborate with neighbors and get more than one estimate. He**



also noted that there is a punch-list of cleanup items and that residents with additional items should contact Beta. The punch-list items should be covered by a \$30 - \$40k holdback to Rocchio.

Peter also noted that the assessment of \$82 per foot is correct and is based on the premise that the assessment must cover the cost of the project.

Kristen Marcks thanked Peter for his efforts and advised attendees that the City of Warwick offers a relief program for those with less than \$55,000 in annual income.

Lastly, he fielded question about the replacement of the speed bumps, which will be restored to the condition they were in prior to the sewer project.

## **New Business:**

### **Budget Presentation and Resolution 2007 - 2008**

Bob Remick presented the 2007 budget and resolution, which called for a total budget of \$87,854 – an increase of under 5% vs. the prior year. The bulk of the increase is reflected in allocations related to the Casino and its utility expenses. Categories discussed were Casino, Grounds, Insurance, Misc., Roads, Taxes, Tennis, and Waterfront. Most of the proposed budgets were consistent with the 2006-2007 spending with a few exceptions. Casino utility expenses

increased almost \$3,000 due to the sewer assessment. Field Cutting of \$4,350 is up \$1,800 from the prior year but reflects two seasonal cuttings. The Paving budget is proposed at \$5,000 to support the asphaltting of Promenade, 9th, and 10th

Avenues. The total estimate is \$69,857. \$45,000 will come from reserves (including the \$5,000 07/08 budget) and the remaining \$25,000 is proposed to come from the unallocated reserves. Finally, \$3,500 was allotted for Snow Plowing, reflecting the recent warmer winters.

Ken MacNaught inquired about maintaining the paths through the woods. Bill Ross confirmed that cutting them yearly will be price neutral. The more frequent cutting will offset the severity of the job.

A 5 minute recess was taken.

#### **Budget Acceptance and Resolution:**

The budget was then accepted. Three resolutions were read by Mr. Farrell - Budget Resolution for \$87,854, Tax Resolution and the Tax Anticipation Borrowing Resolution - not to exceed \$20,000 (authorization for Treasurer to borrow funds).

All three resolutions were approved.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Judy Taton on behalf of Sharon

**Fitzgerald**

**The following names are hereby placed in nomination for the offices and terms stated:**

**For Supervisors, for a three year term, from this date to the BFD annual meeting three years hence in June, 2010 – Deb Taylor.**

**For one year terms, from this date to the BFD annual meeting in 2008:**

**For Moderator – Mark McKenney**

**For Clerk – Patricia Wegrzyn**

**For Treasurer – Joseph Suffredini**

**For Tax Assessors – John Farrell, David Dickerman, Steven Marcks**

**For Tax Collector – John Farrell**

**Accepted as above. Judy Taton will chair the Nominating Committee for 2008.**

**Election of Officers and Supervisors: Mark McKenney**

**Board of Supervisors: Robert Remick - Sr. Supervisor**

**Ken Mason - Supervisor**

**Deb Taylor – New Supervisor**

**Ratification of Acts of Officers and Supervisors:**

**The Officers will be as above. All were elected and the Clerk cast a single ballot for the slate. The motion passed. The ratification of the**

**acts of the officers was passed.**

**Miscellaneous:**

**Terry Harrington, Doug Rademacher, Jon Pratt, and Barbara Edwards noted significant nighttime misbehavior by young residents and non-residents throughout the neighborhood. Despite numerous calls the police don't respond. Bill Foley urged residents to call their City representatives. Jay Farrell urged parents to get youth under control. The Supervisors will review Security timing and procedures.**

**One resident requested that the website be updated and that email be used to communicate in the future.**

**Mark McKenney thanked Judy Taton for her three years as Supervisor and Bob Remick presented Judy with a gift certificate.**

**Call for Adjournment**

**Motion to adjourn accepted. The meeting adjourned at 9:55p.m.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Patricia E. Wegrzyn**